



# The Syresham Times

*VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2008-10, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017*



***SYRESHAM MUMS AND TOTS OUTDOOR PLAY***

***AUGUST 2024***



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**From the Editor's Desk**

Every four years, we are wonderfully entertained by the amazing sporting achievements of those hundreds of Olympians. We get hooked on medal counting, and wowed by some totally amazing acrobatics and more.

It is totally amazing how these young athletes make such incredible progress, and achievements.

It is compelling viewing too, and if you are like me, I spend a good chunk of time trying to distract myself from it and concentrate on our August edition of this village quarterly magazine.

This edition carries sad news and I know the community will be holding those families who have suffered recent losses very much in their thoughts.

I want to thank everyone who makes a contribution, and for being so prompt in submitting articles. Without you, we would not have our Syresham Times!

**IAN DRAPER, EDITOR—AUGUST 2024**

<b>WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?</b>	
4	ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH NEWS
5	GEORGE TIMMS TRUST RUTH AT 70
6	PARISH COUNCIL REPORT
7	GEMS GROUP
8/9	KINGS HEAD, NEW LANDLORD SUDOKU
10	BARBARA HUGHES
11	CREATIVE ARTS JUNE 2024
12	BROWNIES FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL
13	SYRESHAM CHAPEL FRIENDSHIP CLUB
14/15	PHOTO MONTAGE
16/18	IRENE HAWKINS
18/19	SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
20	MUMS & TOTS
22/23	FOOTPATH WARDEN
26	VILLAGE HALL CALENDAR

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:**

**RUSSELL WOOLLEY**

EMAIL:- [syreshamtimes@outlook.com](mailto:syreshamtimes@outlook.com)

07772-028422

**EDITOR: IAN DRAPER,**

9 Bell Lane, Syresham

EMAIL:- [ianjdraper@btinternet.com](mailto:ianjdraper@btinternet.com)

07966-196033

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**COVER PHOTOGRAPH**

**HAZEL BULLEN – MUMS & TOTS OUTDOOR PLAY**

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## **NEWS FROM ST JAMES CHURCH**

### **SHARING OUR SORROWS AND CELEBRATIONS**



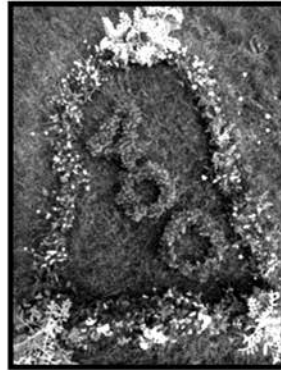
There is so much need for prayer in our world today. We have been coming together at the church to pray, share our sorrows and celebrations and thank God for His love that sustains us through it all. We meet for our Sunday service every week at 11.15am and for a short period of quiet prayer every Thursday at 10.00am. All are most welcome.

Alongside mourning the loss of loved ones we have celebrated birthdays, a wedding and a golden wedding anniversary. In May we started with our joyful Pentecost celebration and walk. The joint service included an adult baptism. We end July with our Patronal festival, a service of Songs of Praise chosen by members of the community.

The Benefice Rogation service was once again a great success raising over £500 for a Dementia Charity.

We give thanks for all the people who helped with the Village Celebration in June – I counted at least 80! It was lovely to see so many folk coming together to enjoy the sunshine, gardens, fete and church & chapel displays. We raised a good amount of money too, helping us keep our church open.

We have thoroughly marked the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of some of our bells. There is a display about their history in church and queues of people came to have a



go at ringing on the Village Celebration day. There was a special celebration in church and we finished the celebrations with Messy Church does

bells. The children loved tolling the bells and climbing into the bell tower to watch Andrew North ringing. All new bell ringers welcome.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Syresham Parish Quiz Team who won the inter-parish quiz trophy for the second year running!

**MAINTENANCE WORK** So we are still awaiting progress on various works including the steeple. We now have to get further shingle samples to satisfy the planners. The good news is that although the costs may go up our Trust fund is performing quite well and may be able to help us cover any additional costs – this is my prayer anyway.

We are grateful to the wonderful Church Yard Working party and others who come in between times to help us do maintenance jobs around the church and in the new churchyard. The next big project will be to paint the older railings along the new churchyard. All help welcomed – we usually meet on the first Saturday of the month but can fit you in any time. Had you noticed our community herb garden? Help yourself once the herbs

get going.

**SOCIAL FUN**

There was lots of fun to be had at the Friend’s Safari Supper and the Benefice Barn Dance we look forward to another walk led by Andrew Hornby later in the year.

Don’t forget the church is open during daylight hours – to find peace and quiet - or pick up a puzzle, coffee, dog biscuits – or have a play in the children’s area.

Here are some dates for your diary:

**SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>** 10:30 – Churchyard Working Party

**SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>** Ride and Stride around the churches

**SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>** 4PM - All Age Harvest festival followed by high tea and sale of produce for charity.

**WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER** 7PM - Study group led by Rev. Hugh White details TBC.

**Alice PALMER &  
REVD. HUGH  
WHITE**

**GEORGE TIMMS  
TRUST**

Helping one



person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person.

If you are in, or are about to start, a course of further or higher education, and would like to be considered for one of our Educational Grants, please get in touch for an application form.

The Trust can also offer financial

support to members of our community at time of need. If you are facing hardship due to an unforeseen change in circumstances, or you would like to refer someone else for support, please ask for an application form for a General Grant.

All enquiries and applications are treated in the strictest confidence. You can write to us c/o 32 High Street, Syresham NN13 5HL or send an email to [info@georgetimmstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@georgetimmstrust.org.uk).

You can also find and follow George Timms Trust on Facebook. **GEORGE TIMMS TRUST**

**70 YEARS ON AND A BIG THANK YOU!**



August 17th saw a huge gathering at the Village Hall when the community came together to wish our favourite Post Mistress a special happy birthday! And to wish her well with the upcoming treatment. For her part, Ruth asks me to pass on her very grateful thanks for the many generous gifts, flowers, money and best wishes that she received for her birthday.

We wish her well in the immediate future, and confirm that the village will keep her and the family in our thoughts over the next few months. There will be adjusted opening hours. Help and support to maintain the shop and Post Office is very much welcome. **EDITOR**



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

We extend a warm welcome to our new Parish Councillor, Russell Woolley. We

very much look forward to working with him in the future.

We are pleased to report that the D Day celebration on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> June was a great success. Sponsored by Parish Council and HS2, it was a great success.

Many of you will have noticed that work has been carried out on the pavement opposite the Chapel. Although the camber of the pavement is still not ideal, the Parish Council is concerned that it should not be further damaged by heavy vehicles mounting the pavement because of parked cars. We are therefore asking Highways to put double yellow lines on the narrow section of road opposite the Sunday School and the grassy bank. We await the result of our request.

Following the trial of advisory 20 mph signs, we are now requesting that the whole of the village should be made a 20 mph speed restricted zone. Again, we await the results of our request.

Residents are being encouraged to share their views on the Local Transport Plan presently being developed by West Northants Council. The plan details a range of proposals for transport over the next 20 years which aims to:

- *Make public transport more attractive and accessible;*
- *Make active travel such as cycling or walking a first choice for short trips;*

- *Reduce dependency on private cars*
- *Make our transport system safer, cleaner and more inclusive;*
- *Improve transport infrastructure and transport services to make them more resilient;*
- *Achieve net zero.*

WNC is very keen for residents, businesses, community groups, landowners and other stakeholders to have their say on whether they agree with the proposals in the plan. Drop in events are being held in the area – on Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m, till midday at the Piazza in Brackley and online on August 21<sup>st</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Further details are available on the West Northants website.

There is positive news for anyone who has a problem with **wasps nests** this Summer. WNC will identify the nest and eliminate it for you – **just give them a call on 0300 123 7000.**

Please be aware that the Parish Council website has a new address [www.syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.syreshamparishcouncil.gov.uk) We are looking to improve the website and would welcome any suggestions residents might have.

Just another reminder that if you see any street problems such as potholes, overgrown hedges or vegetation, blocked drains, fly tipping, street lighting etc., these can be reported directly to West Northants Council on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com), where they should be promptly dealt with.

Finally, ‘thank you’ to Gary Lowther, for the work he has done for the Parish Council during the past year or so and to wish him well.

**CLLR CHRISTINA MUNSEY**

**OUR GEMS CLUB.....**

**YOU ARE VERY  
WELCOME TO JOIN  
US!!!!**

**GEMS**

Do you want to socialise in the community, meet new people, and enjoy the company of friends? We are a group of women who meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at Syresham Village Hall (SVH) and occasionally at different venues/ time. We are a great bunch of 'gals' who want to socialise, learn new things from our guest speakers, and have fun!! You can be part of this fabulous group, just come along to any meeting. Or if you would like to know more about us, or would like to come along with one of the members, please just call or text Sally (on 07765-402612) or Antoinette on (07814-283385). It costs £3 per event at the village hall or £20 per year. This is such great value for a club on your doorstep.

Recent events have seen us travelling out and about. In June we visited Stowe House, we were given an excellent, informative guided tour of the house and gardens followed by a lovely cup of tea and biscuits. July saw us venturing over to Broughton Manor Gardens for a guided tour of the gardens. This was most interesting and a beautiful sight to see, along with desirous tea and cake. In May Martin Sirod-Smith from Sulgrave Manor came to talk to us about Daily life in Tudor Times. He was extremely entertaining.

Everyone said they enjoyed the talk immensely.

**Our events calendar starts again after the September AGM**

September 11th AGM SVH 7:30pm opportunity to share ideas for future events...it is our club to make how we want it to be! **ANTOINETTE HORNBY**

**THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES CHURCH**

We have some great events coming up to which you are warmly invited. These offer a great opportunity to meet new friends and get to know your neighbours in the village.

**Poppy display.** In the last edition of Syresham Times we put a request out for poppy makers. Thank You so very much to all who got knitting - what kind people you all are! It made a fabulous display in the church to remember our fallen soldiers. We would love to have even more.

**Membership:** *The Friends of St. James* includes people who may not be regular members of the congregation but who value our lovely church, its history, and the part it plays in the life of our village community. The Committee, backed by the members, take responsibility for some aspects of the upkeep of the church which fall outside the scope of the Madge Payne Bequest. We welcome new "Friends". If you would like to know more, please call 01280 850060.

***Continued page 22***



The King's Head reopened on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July after a three week closure when the previous tenant left in the

middle of June after a twelve month tenure. The new tenant is one of our own!

Villager Alex MacIver-Bouden who, with his partner Megan, family members and friends, has worked hard to refurbish the pub and give it a fresh vibrant look and a new exciting lease of life.

Several villagers generously volunteered their skills and time to help with the refurbishment including the serious deep-cleaning that was needed throughout. The pub has been completely and tastefully been repainted throughout with tiling repairs to the floor, grass cutting and gardening, re-upholstering furniture, sorting out the cellar and its management. The initial theme for the pub is light and airy with a slimmed down range of beers and wines initially, until Alex and Megan can gauge exactly what will satisfy the locals' tastes. Staff uniforms will promote the pub with a new logo and provide a smart corporate look.

Food will definitely follow when the kitchen is up and running. Our hosts

are aware they must walk before they can run. They are taking their time after opening to get things right first time and are committed to putting in place long term food plans which the local community can finally and consistently rely on.

For instance, beside the kitchen food when it is up and running, the Thai food takeaway van is will be a regular fixture once a month, along with the weekly fish and chip van. Also, the wood oven pizza van and other food operations plan to be a regular feature.

It's all in the advanced planning stage, so keep an eye on Facebook and social media for future updates as well as the funky advertising sign-boards inside and outside that have been gifted to Alex and Megan by yet another generous villager.

Personally, we were not there for the opening night as we were on holiday but we will be following up this article on how the King's Head is going for the next edition of the ST in November. However, we were involved in helping with some elements of the work carried out during the three weeks of refurbishment and we were thoroughly updated by friends in the village while we were away as to how the first evening went.

Opening night was a resounding unmitigated success! The pub was packed and a serious amount of BBQ food and beer was consumed. The word was out that the pub was back in business with a serious long term plan and as a result a huge number of



people came to check it out. They were not disappointed!!

Well done Syresham! A flurry of reviews followed next day on Facebook etc all saying the same thing about how great it was to be back there, everyone had a good time, the pub looked lovely inside, the beers were good.

As a village we are blessed with amenities we understandably take for granted but which other villages can only look upon enviously. We have the sports and social club, the sports field and summer cricket, the church, the chapel, a thriving and well run primary school, shop, post office, a fantastic village hall and of course our King's Head pub.

We are so lucky that two young people with drive and a vision and a realistic and workable business plan are so keen and willing to give our beloved King's Head another fighting chance to survive and thrive.

Alex and Megan have gone into this venture with their eyes wide open but we, as villagers, have to play our part too and support them. It's a win-win situation because our lovely Syresham village is enriched for having a pub that is a going concern.

On a mercenary note, it's worth bearing in mind any estate agent will tell you that a village which has the holy trinity of primary school, shop and a pub is much more desirable to potential house buyers and house prices will always reflect this. The hospitality industry in this country is in need of a business defibrillator in

these current times and it's a fact that 80 pubs are closing nationwide each week. It therefore follows that anybody who decides to take a risk on a pub and possess a determination on making a go of things must be applauded and supported by the village.

So Syresham, you must support your local pub. The pub needs you and you need the pub. We are very lucky to still have it thanks to these two, young entrepreneurial villagers and this situation can be yet another example of Syresham collectively pulling together to help a local cause. Keep an eye out for our follow up article in the next issue. **MIKE AND KATH MAUND**

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**MY NANNY  
HUGHES—**

**BY VICTORIA  
HUGHES**

**EARLY DAYS**

**27TH MARCH 1933  
TO 3RD MAY 2024**



In the cottage at Syresham, 25 Bell Lane on 27th March 1933, Barbara Anne Geary was born. She had an elder brother and sister—Harold and Elsie. Later to be born came Gordon. Her father, Joseph worked on a farm and later as a roadman.

Her Mother Mary, kept the house and looked after the children.

Barbara attended school at the age of 4, and from age 6 could remember the Wartime, having windows in her home blacked out, and using gas masks, and food being rationed. She was able to see Coventry ablaze from a distance.

When she was 7, her mother passed away.

Her school day began with a bell being rung, and she remembers having a  $\frac{1}{4}$  bottle of milk to drink. In her lessons she would knit socks and scarfs for the men in the army.

At Christmas time in her stocking, she would find things like an apple, an orange, a bar of chocolate and a few nuts. One of her jobs as a child

was to look after the pigs, the chickens, cats and dogs.

At the age of 13, she did potato picking in school time. She would sing songs like 'Camptown Races', and 'Slow Boat to China' at school concerts. At 14, she left school and looked after her family. Straight away she started work at Lotus Shoe Factory in Westbury and when she got home, kept house for her father and youngest brother. When Lotus closed down she moved to True Form in Abthorpe.

Some of her evenings would be spent going to dances in Towcester, having fish and chip supper on the way home! She met her future husband Victor when they were both 18, he was in the army based at Biddlesden.

They began married life on June 27th 1953, at Brackley and lived in her family home, The Cottage at Syresham. They had two children, Janet and David. Victor became a painter and decorator and David joined him when he left school. Barbara and Janet kept the books. This became the family business which continues through David to this day.

Barbara started work again when David was 11. She worked at Syresham School as assistant cook with her good friend Rosemary. She also taught lace making, and had

many enjoyable years lace making as a hobby, and teaching the grandchildren. Latterly enjoying jigsaws.

David helped his dad build their bungalow in Crowfield where they all lived. Sadly she lost Victor in 1992 and daughter Janet in 2015.

Sandra and the children often visited Crowfield on Sundays where lots of memories were made.

Needing more care towards the end of her life, she was looked after by David and carers at Brackley Fields Care Home. **VICTORIA HUGHES**

***WINNING POEM IN THE  
CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION, JUNE  
8<sup>TH</sup> 2024, ST JAMES THE GREAT  
CHURCH***

**WHERE LOVE LIVES**

*Beyond the winding roads and vales  
Through the vibrant meadows,  
Lies Syresham, the village with a  
beating heart*

*Full of love in abundance.  
The bells of the church sing their  
song 400 years strong,  
Wrapping everyone in a veil of hope  
As loved ones sleep in the  
churtyard, never forgotten.*

*The school's warm arms wrap  
around the children*

*Until they spill out of the iron gates  
Hand in hand and homeward*

*bound.*

*Laughter fills the paths and  
pavements*

*Trickling down Broad Street, to the  
park.*



*Later, when the  
red kite has  
returned to its  
nest*

*And the moon has  
kissed the sun*

*goodnight*

*Adults chuckle their way home  
from the pub and social club*

*New friends, old friends forever  
Beneath the blanket of our loving  
community.*

***BY ABRIELLE CLARKE, AGED 10,  
SYRESHAM CE SCHOOL***

***FRIENDS OF ST JAMES CE SCHOOL***



With Mayday over and so many other activities going on in school, the FOSS committee have taken a slight backseat this summer term.

One of our lovely green fingered grannies potted up some plants to be sold in aid of FOSS. The wonderful plants were put outside the school gates and thank you to all the villagers who came to purchase them.



This last term, FOSS funded a tennis coach to give the school some lessons on a Friday. This was a huge success and was rounded off with some Wimbledon style strawberries and cream kindly donated by one of our parents.

The Senior half of the school put on an incredible school theatre production of "Jill and Fred's most hysterical historical adventures". The boys and girls did a fantastic job of this very funny play. There were some great costumes (Children in beards are always funny) and it was lovely to see all their many talents.

FOSS ran a successful raffle and supplied refreshments to the audience. After a rainy delay, we had a sunny sports day, where we supplied a much-needed ice lolly to all the boys and girls after a morning of enthusiastic competition.

Over the past year we have had 'Cakey Friday' which is not only a great fund raiser but provides a well-deserved treat for the children at the end of the week. We are always looking for more bakers. So, if you are a keen baker and willing to bake 30 treats once a term, please get in touch with the school office.

Lastly as Chair, I would just like to say a huge thank you to all the village for their support over the last school year. It truly proves what an amazing community this village is. If you would like to get further involved with the FOSS, please give the school a shout and they will point you in

the right direction. We are already looking forward to lots of fun filled events for the next school year.

**SARAH PATERSON, CHAIR OF FOSS.**

### **SYRESHAM BROWNIES**

We have had an amazing summer term despite the weather not being kind to us.



One of our favourite evenings is playing with the parachute and we managed to have fun a couple of times with it.

The annual flour trail took place, no doubt the eagle eyes of some of you will have spotted the blobs of flour around the village!

We were lucky enough to go to Beachborough School for a Forest Evening and had a bonfire, made smores and sang camp fire songs (thank you to Verity for hosting us).

The girls waited on our guests for the 50th anniversary cream tea and it was fantastic to see so many of the past helpers there. Without them the unit wouldn't have reached that milestone.

I discovered from Miriam (Payne) that the real reason her Mum (Joan) started up the Syresham Pack was because she couldn't drive to Brackley where there was a unit which her girls attended and she couldn't rely on Dad (Puffa) getting home on time to take them!

So Syresham Brownies was founded!



The summer ended with a bug hunt and BBQ at the Pocket Park and we look forward to lots of new adventures in September when we return after the holidays. Thank you once again to all the helpers and David, without you Brownies wouldn't happen. **REPORT**

**BY WOL**

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

It was with much sorrow that the Friendship Club had to cease owing to lack of support and very few members. Our final meeting was at Vine Cottage for a strawberry tea and we do thank



Sue Palmer for all she has done for this club. Looking back at old minutes she acted as Secretary and has been President for many years. The committee has worked hard to keep the club functioning but without members sadly it had to fold.

**DOT**

**SYRESHAM WESLEYAN CHAPEL**

The chapel displayed gardens of the bible and served refreshments over the weekend of the Church fete and Open



Gardens. It is always good to welcome visitors to the village.

Each week for our Evening Service we always meet in the Chapel and

also zoom our service. For the Grand Prix weekend we decided all our congregation would join by zoom and our speaker was in South Africa. Tim regularly led services for us when he was studying and working in Oxford and it was so good to share time with him and his wife Danica and meet

their son Sebastian.

Technology worked amazing well and we hope to repeat this way of sharing together in the not too distant future.

Our **HARVEST**

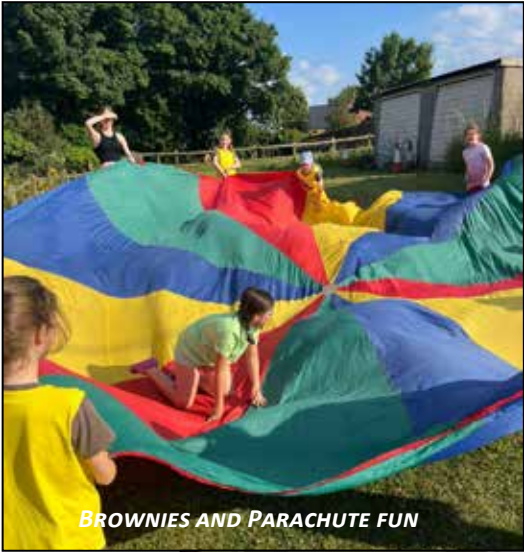
**THANKSGIVING** service will be held on Sunday **SEPTEMBER 15TH** when our speaker will be Chris Bazeley from Brackley.

We would like to invite you to join us for this service.

We thank all our preachers who lead services for us every week and we appreciate their messages.

Breakfast Church meets twice a month and it is encouraging for children and parents to meet and watch and help the youngsters joining together and learning more about Jesus.

**DOT**



***BROWNIES AND PARACHUTE FUN***



***AFTERNOON CREAM TEAS***



***ALEX AND MEGAN—NEW LANDLORDS AT THE KINGS HEAD***



*HAND KNITTED POPPIES—  
FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH*



*HISTORY SOCIETY D-DAY 80YRS FILM  
SHOW JUNE 2024*



*PHOTO MORGAN HAWKINS*

**SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO STAN, BARBARA AND THE HAWKINS FAMILY, ON THE LOSS OF ANDY, A LOYAL MEMBER OF THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB AND SYRESHAM CRICKET CLUB.**



**IRENE HAWKINS**  
**SEPTEMBER 1942**  
**– JUNE 2024**

Irene Billingham was born on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1942, in Northampton, the eldest of three children, and was

raised mostly by her Auntie Annie and Uncle Matthew, in their guest house on Hazelwood Road, Northampton. She adored her Auntie, and loved helping with the housekeeping. She also enjoyed meeting the touring actors who stayed at the guesthouse.

Leaving school at age 15, she worked at Boots and then Woolworths, where she was often asked by the manager to model the latest fashions around the town centre – she was always quick and happy to oblige.

When she was age 16, one Saturday night out with her friend, a young man from Syresham cheekily slid down the banister of the Central Tavern Pub, and promptly asked her out on a date. She agreed to meet him the following weekend. He just happened to go back to the same pub the following night, and so did Irene. The young man from Syresham said “What, couldn’t you wait till next week?” Les and Irene have been together ever since!

Irene got a second job in a brewery to pay for the wedding. And they were married on November 5<sup>th</sup> 1960. They set up home together in a small

caravan on one of Patterson’s fields, where Les worked as a farm labourer. Irene helped out with the sheep-shearing, rolling the fleeces. Irene also helped cutting faggot sticks in the woods. Their first child Keith was brought to their caravan home.

They moved to The Pound, where Alan and Denise were both born. At the tender age of 21 Irene had three children, all under 4 years old. Denise was born three days after Irene’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and Les claimed it was a delayed 21<sup>st</sup> birthday gift! Every day, she would walk up to Burnham Place with the children to visit her mother-in-law.

Later the same year Les gave her another surprise. He bought her a house! However she soon discovered the new home was a row of three derelict cottages next to the brook costing £1,250, her heart must have sunk. With help from George Jeacock and a borrowed tractor and trailer, they moved in. George told of huge holes in the roof, half a stair case, and how they shovelled the carpet off the floor! Over the next 60 years, Irene transformed the abandoned houses by the brook, into a beautiful family home, which she happily lived in for over 50 years.

Irene took on part time work while the children were young, with Mr Archer in his shop, and as Dinner Lady at Syresham CE School. She enjoyed a laugh—she was definitely not a ‘work



and no play' person.

For much of her time she produced the estimates and invoices for the business, on one occasion finding herself locked in the office! Fortunately, Dot Dunkley was passing over the bridge and heard shouts for help, and came to the rescue. On this occasion Irene was not too pleased with Les!

Over time, Les bought more properties to let, and Irene was always ready to improve them, choosing kitchens, bathrooms and more and doing bits of decoration. When Alan and Rosemary bought number 40 Broad Street, Irene followed her friend, Maureen Gosling's advice on the use of Artex, very popular in the 1980s.

Irene loved music and dancing. She was always first onto the dance floor, and last to leave it, with Les always having the last dance together. Her favourite venue was The Salon Ballroom in Northampton. And the house was always alive to 60s music, especially Motown. However, her favourite was Tom Jones, and she loved the TV clips on You Tube.

Irene first showed signs of dementia around 14 years ago, and she was cared for at home in Syresham by Les, until it was necessary for her to receive specialist care. She moved to Brackley Care Home late in 2020, where she received outstanding care whilst also forming close bonds with her favourite carers. Before this she was the

embodiment of a social butterfly, a people person, and being so surrounded by her carers.

Her most cherished moments in the care home were during musical activities, when she would dance and sing across the hallways with her carers. She frequently revived her days in the church choir, singing hymns with Rosemary and Alan. And after a rendition of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', she would hold out her hand and with a smile say "That's two pounds please!"

As her Dementia progressed, she would visit Crowfield to see Rosemary and Alan twice a week, having her hair done, taking lunch and helping with the afternoon tea. She was fond of their dogs, and would enjoy sunny days in the garden. Alan would come home to share "Tom Jones Teatimes", and more from the likes of Ella Fitzgerald.

Over the years she had many enjoyable holidays, in Cornwall, or jetting off to Spain, or the Tenerife time share. She always made the best of time with friends that she made along the way. She even undertook the challenge of towing a caravan!

Shopping was one of Irene's great pleasures, and she loved bargain hunting at Brierleys and the Market in Northampton. And she took great pride in her appearance, always looking glamorous.

She was a proud grandmother to Tim, Phoebe, Jade and Sam. And great

grandmother to Jenna and Carmen, being Nanny or Nan Nan to them. Tim has fond memories of time spent with his Nan Nan, especially his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, when the clown that his Mum had booked did not turn up. Irene rushed home with the clown outfit and make up and returned looking hilarious. However, Tim was not fooled by her appearance as a clown! Jade fondly remembers 'Nanny's Jelly', which famously never set, but tasted all the better for it! Sam recalls playing with his friends in the Swingfield park, and Nanny appearing at the window and launching choc ices in their direction! Les said he realised how very lucky he was to have met Irene, and to have been with her for 64 years. Irene passed away peacefully on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Brackley Care Home surrounded by her family. Her legacy will be in the love, kindness and compassion she leaves with her husband, children, grand-children and great grand-children and friends. Thank you for making the world a better place to be, for making each day more 'Bright and Beautiful.'

**LES HAWKINS AND FAMILY**

**SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB** Contact Sarah Whitehead for all events - 07912 784294 -

[sarahwhitehead@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahwhitehead@btinternet.com)



**CRICKET**



Congratulations to the Syresham T20 team for being crowned the Lords Cricket Balls Premier Division T20 Champions for 2024 following a victory against Silverstone CC of the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

Live cricket at the club continues on Saturday afternoons throughout August. The 1st XI play in the South Northants Cricket League, Lords Cricket Balls Premier Division where at the time of writing the team are in third place. The 2nd XI compete in the Braunstone Print Division One. Check the website [syresham.play-cricket.com](http://syresham.play-cricket.com) for details of fixtures, results and league tables.

**FOOTBALL**

We have an 11v11 Football pitch for hire at Syresham for next season. Please get in touch if you're interested or for more details please contact Sarah Whitehead 07912-784294.

**Saturday 3rd August**

BBQ from 6pm

**Sunday 11th August**

Sunday Carvery, Serving from 12- 2pm

**SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST**

BBQ from 6pm

**SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER -  
MURDER MYSTERY EVENING**

Following the success of last year's evening we will be presenting Murder in the Pizzeria! As previously, we will need 14 people to play the characters with spaces also available if you would just like to watch the action and enjoy the meal. Please get in touch with Sarah to book your place and let her know if you would like to play a character or just watch. Cost will be £17 per head to cover the cost of the meal.

**SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER - CLASSIC  
AND MODERN VEHICLE SHOW –**

11.00am to 3.00pm featuring cars, motorcycles and tractors along with vehicles from all forms of motorsport.

Refreshments and food will be available from 10.30am with the bar opening at 12.00pm

Pre-book your vehicle for £5. Booking forms are available now. They can be emailed or posted or picked up from the club house after 7pm.

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE BAR**

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our bar on a regular basis. If you can spare 3-4 hours on a Saturday afternoon or some evenings, please contact Sarah. This would be on a 4-5 week basis hopefully. No experience needed as full training will

be provided

**ADVANCED NOTIFICATIONS:**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER - AUTUMN  
CRAFT FAIR**

11am to 3pm - £7.50 per 4ft table -  
Stall bookings being taken now.

**SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER -  
CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY**



**SYRESHAM ART  
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**SYRESHAM VILLAGE HALL**

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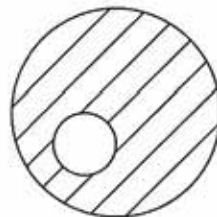


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### **MUMS AND TOTS**

Wednesday mornings 10.00am - 11.45am

We would like to welcome families with young children to join us for a play session at Syresham Village Hall.

The aim of the group is for parents and carers to enjoy playing with the children in a comfortable friendly atmosphere.

We offer a separate play mat for babies and really young children and a variety of educational toys along with ride ons for the more able children .

Painting, crafts and sand play are encouraged and enjoyed often by the mums and dads !!

There is a car park and easy access for push chairs to be brought inside the foyer .

Our charges:-

£2.00 per parent or carer

£1.00per child over one year

50p per child under one year

Come along and meet Cathy, Beryl and myself and make new friends and enjoy a cuppa or two.

Snacks are provided for the children with encouragement to try new things.

For more information please call **07798-567884, HAZEL BULLEN**

### ***SYRESHAM GARDENING CLUB***

We were very pleased to welcome Nigel Munsey as our guest speaker in May. Nigel gave an extremely entertaining, illustrated talk entitled '*This Gardening Life*', telling us of his experiences as a gardener, starting with the gardens he created from scratch, his work on other peoples' gardens, his allotment in Syresham, his garden in Spain and his cacti collection. He ended by enumerating all the great benefits of gardening to our health and wellbeing.

Then in June we visited Kathy Brown's garden near Bedford. We enjoyed a guided tour of this large, delightful garden followed by Kathy's delicious home made cakes. The Gardening Club also organised the very successful Open Gardens day in June, when ten gardens were open for villagers and visitors to view as part of the Village Celebration event. Our thanks go to those people who opened their lovely gardens or helped and supported the event that raised almost £1500 for the Gardening Club. This was an amazing result! It will ensure that our club remains viable and enable us to create an interesting and variable programme for next year.

Our July meeting was spent in the Pocket Park with '*Fizz and a Quiz*' and in August we are looking forward to a return visit to the RHS Garden, Wisley which is one of the world's great gardens, packed with horticultural inspiration and located near Guildford in Surrey.

**CHRISTINA MUNSEY**

## **PARISH PATH WARDEN**

Many thanks to all the landowners who have been keeping the paths clear through their crops during this growing season, as well as dealing with all the nettles and brambles which have been going mad this year.



To all the people who enjoy using the Public Rights of Way around the village, the best thing to do to keep the paths clear of overgrowth is to keep using them! The more they are trafficked, the less chance the nettles and brambles have to take over. A summer social walk is planned for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Setting off from outside the pub at 10am, this will be a longer walk than previous ones – probably a couple of hours. Call/text/WhatsApp Andrew on 07518 721403 for more details and to register your interest. It might take us somewhere you've not walked before.

If you're looking for inspiration for different places to walk, or how to access online maps of our local footpaths/bridleways/byways, please get in touch. If you want to report any hazards or obstructions on our public rights of way network, please do so via [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com); if you want any help with this just let me know.

**ANDREW HORNBY**

## **FRIENDS OF ST JAMES CHURCH**

### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7**

The AGM was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and we were reminded of great village events organised over the last 12 months.

Oct '23 saw a quiz evening, and our quiz master was Sally. A well-attended enjoyable event raising money for the restoration of the church building.

For Nov '23: we arranged a walk with a soup lunch which was good fun, even though it rained just a bit; the lunch was delicious.

Dec '23: we held our members' evening, a little Christmas get-together at Margaret & Brian's; they were excellent hosts and we all brought nibbles to share.

Feb '24: saw us celebrating pancake day, with children from the school waiting the tables and serving pancakes to visitors.

Jun '24: we held a 'Safari Supper', which was so well supported. We had 5 hosts in all, and everyone moved around the village for each course.

We have pledged money to build a storage shed for the tables & chairs, and the removal of a large Sycamore tree that is damaging the church wall, a large contribution to the church steeple and money for plants for the churchyard. **ANTOINETTE HORNBY**

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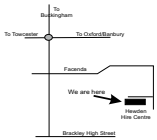
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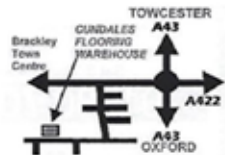
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PROPRIETOR: RUTH MARY GROVELL

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE HALL THESE DAYS?

<b>MON-DAYS</b>	<p>DANCE CLASSES 6.00PM TO 8.30PM (<i>Term time</i>)</p>	<p><b>TUESDAYS</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays</p>	<p>11.00am to 2.30pm BALLET/PILATES/ SEATED PILATES (<i>Term Time</i>)</p> <p>5.30PM TO 7.00P.M. DANCE (<i>Term Time</i>)</p> <p>6.00PM TILL 7.15PM BROWNIES, <u>Sunday School Room</u>,</p> <p>TAEKWANDO 7.30PM TO 9.00PM</p> <p>PERSONAL TRAINING 7.30PM TO 8.30PM</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP CLUB (29/03) 2.15PM TO 4.00 PM FROM APRIL 1ST 2022</p> <p>CRAFT GROUP, <u>Sunday School</u> 7.30-10.00PM</p>
<b>WEDNES-DAYS</b>	<p>10.00AM TO 11.45AM MUMS &amp; TOTS (<i>TERM-TIME</i>)</p> <p>12.15 TO 1.15PM PILATES (<i>TERM TIME</i>)</p> <p>2.30 TO 4.30PM GARDENING CLUB (<i>FROM JANUARY</i>)</p> <p>DANCE 5.00PM TO 7.00PM</p> <p>BALLET 7.15PM TO 9.00PM</p>	<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<p>COFFEE SHOP 10.30AM to 12.30pm</p> <p>BOWLS CLUB 2.00PM TO 4.00PM <i>(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)</i></p>
<p>1<sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY</p> <p>2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY</p> <p>LAST WEDNESDAY</p>	<p>HISTORY SOCIETY 7.30PM TO 9.30PM</p> <p>GEMS WOMEN'S GROUP 7.30PM TO 9.30PM</p> <p>7.30PM PARISH COUNCIL</p>		
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	<p>Various activities</p> <p>SPORTS CLUB QUIZ (3RD FRIDAY) SPORTS CLUB)</p>	<b>SATURDAYS &amp; SUNDAYS</b>	<p>SEIDOKAN 2ND &amp; 4TH SUNDAYS 10.00AM - 12.00PM</p> <p>SOCIAL EVENTS SPORTS CLUB</p>
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<p>ST JAMES CHURCH 11.00AM</p> <p>1ST &amp; 3RD SUNDAY</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY</p>	<p>HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>MORNING WORSHIP</p> <p>PRAISE AND PRAYER</p>	<p>SYRESHAM CHAPEL</p> <p>WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE 6.00 P.M.</p>

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